

Some Forage Found Safe To Feed

Editor's Note—This is the second of three articles dealing with "Heptachlor" and the recent action by various health departments cutting off milk shipments.

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Farmers buying hay have been warned to be certain that the hay they buy is not contaminated with pesticide residue.

Extension Agent Allen B. Bryant says that the best way to be sure hay is free from contamination is to have a laboratory test done on a sample from each shipment.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has advised all farmers to either get a guarantee that the hay purchased is clean or have it tested before

hauling.

Many farmers are in the market for hay because of short early-season crops or because their own hay has been deemed unsafe for usual feeding levels to milking cattle because of contamination.

Since May, the University of Maryland has been testing forages from all over the state for pesticide residues.

At the last report 650 of these forage samples had been tested, and all were found to contain some degree of residue.

Bryant said that 95 of the samples tested so far were from Frederick County.

In almost a third of the sam-

ples tested, contamination was found to be so heavy that the University has recommended it not be fed.

Results of tests on other samples indicated a level of contamination low enough that the hay could be fed to cattle on a limited basis, and contamination in some samples was low enough that the hay could be fed normally.

There has as of yet been no completed experiment to indicate how much residue found in feed will be retained by the cattle.

It is believed by some that a cow retains about half of the amount of residue found in the

total diet. The remainder is passed off with body wastes.

The residues are stored in the animal's fat, and it is believed that the only way to eliminate contamination in a cow is to remove the fat by very light feeding.

Most residues are found on alfalfa and other forage crops. With few exceptions, grain crops of concentrates tested have been free of residues.

Feed crops other than alfalfa may become contaminated if grown in soil previously treated with heptachlor, if treated with fertilizer is used, or if spray materials are used indiscriminately in adjacent areas.